

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's First Suburban Residential Area



The Nation's Top Suburban Weekly  
TEN CENTS

Who're the Players?  
See LL Rosters, Page 8-E.

Music Guild  
Slates Festival, Page 1-C.

Springtime Means  
outdoor auction time for St. James Episcopal church. See photo on page 6-B.

Female Little League  
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## This and That

by George R. Averill

U.S. Weather Bureau folks are going to let you know just how "unusual" you are, when the weather gets hot each summer. They will measure a combination of dry and humid temperature, from which they'll reveal in another set of figures (from 45 through 103) the status of your "misery." When the figure is 75, half of us (all the people) will be uncomfortable. Though hot, if the air is dry, we perspire and will be comfortable. If the air is humid (wet) the dew sweat just won't take off... it will roll and run down your feet. But you can sit in front of an electric fan or air conditioner, or submerge "neath the polar ice.

Talk about paying tribute to a dog—how's this: An Otsego, Mich., truck driver, living in a coma as the result of an accident, is being called to call for "Spotty," his English setter canine companion. The dog will go to the hospital and be trained to recover it. Why? The doctors agree that Spoty's return may aid his master to recover.

Say! You know that Gov. Williams in the Demos favor the graduated income tax and the Reps want a one-cent increase in the sales tax. Well, why not pass legislation to give each group the kind of tax it wants, thus allowing each party member to select his choice of payment. Might take a lot of bookkeeping and calculating and fussing and, we suppose, political feeding. But if it brings needed money to the State's empty treasury... well, then it will bring the needed money!

"This said that there was not much of a smelt run in Michigan this past late winter. It was recorded this just to do something for the smelt... who said that they had wanted to catch a few. They admit, too, that they never know just where they will go to spawn. Sometimes they, like humans, lose their way.

Royal Orbit, you may recall, is the name of the horse that recently won \$130,000 in the annual Preakness race in Baltimore. Her running orbit was around a smooth dirt track lasting only a minute and 57 seconds. She probably attracted the attention of more Americans than would a successful orbiting of a U.S. space missile. In short, as was said long ago: "brevity is the soul of wit" and wit is an universal attraction.

### May Cost You More To Wait in Taxicab

Birmingham Veterans Cab Co. will get a June 8 hearing on a petition to boost its waiting time rate to \$3 an hour. It now is \$2. Owners and brothers Clarence T. and Norman F. Johnson cite a 1958 ordinance that recommends the increase.

### Bulletin

Blessing of the cornerstone for the five-parish Catholic Marian high school for girls has been celebrated at 3 p.m. Sunday at the south side of the Lincoln-Labier site, following the ceremony which was blessed at 3 p.m. of the St. Regis mission church and elementary school at the northeast corner of the site.

It has been said that most human prejudices are based upon ignorance or mis-information... sometimes just vain imaginings. To be prejudiced is, generally, to pre-judge before knowing the facts. If half of the prejudices spawned by human beings in a single day were made to disappear before the light of Truth—what wonderful improvement would be made!

62nd YEAR—NO. 12

# B'ham Tax Rate Holds; Oakland County Wins

## Wil School Boards; Oakland County Wins Battle?

By SAVILLA SLOAN  
Special Writer

For the first time in three years, Oakland county schools will receive no cut in their share of the 15-mill county property tax... provided there is no change of heart on the part of Oakland county tax allocation board members before their final decision June 1.

In a temporary decision establishing preliminary tax rates for 1959, the allocation board in Pontiac Friday voted four to two to retain the same division of the 15-mills among the county, townships and school districts as was in effect last year.

Division among members of the allocation board brought out the general sentiment among many county officials that something should be done about the problem of trying to balance budgets requiring 25 mills or more with 15-mill limitation set by 1932 state law.

county association of school boards, charged "after school districts have voted to increase their taxes for educational purposes, this allocation should be done about the problem of the school funds until in many cases, the voted increases... may be nullified completely."

Members of the allocation board voting to retain last year's allotment ratio were Phil Kovacs, chairman of the board, William Emerson, county superintendent of schools, and James L. Gardner.

with members Roy Y. Moore, chairman of county auditors, and Charles Sparks, county treasurer, who proposed the proposal. Gardner changed his vote, breaking the deadlock, when Emerson made the appeal. "It's about time for the county and schools to do something outside this 15-mill act," What Emerson has in mind as a solution to the 15-mill limitation, he refuses to reveal at this time.

A PROPOSAL earlier this year was made by Merrill O. Bates, chairman of Oakland county school board association. He proposed that the association add the county in seeing extra millage for county operation from the voting public through a county referendum. He would be turned down by the county.

A feeling that some solution will come out of this year's hassle over the ratio was expressed by Birmingham School Superintendent Dwight Ireland, who said "the great concern of the county is the decision that something permanent has to be done about the total problem."

## Budget Hearing Monday

At their final special budget session Saturday, Birmingham's seven city commissioners believe they reached for adoption a 1959-60 municipal budget that will require no tax increase.

They also have agreed the city can finance from current reserves the proposed \$151,000 addition to Baldwin public library.

A public hearing on the budget is set for next Monday night before the city commission.

Dr. David W. Thornberry relaxes in his living room with his Killarney pipe.

## At 92, He's Active As Gardener in Soil and in Souls

By DENI SCANLON  
Church Editor

I rang the doorbell. A distinguished white-haired man opened the door to the frame home on Southfield road just a short distance from St. James Episcopal church, Birmingham.

He greeted me cordially. As we sat in the living room chatting, a grandfather's clock chimed a Westminster tune accompanied by short bursts from a cuckoo clock perched on the wall.

I could smell some home cooking from the kitchen, the kitchen of 92-year-old Rev. David W. Thornberry and his wife, Frances.

Dr. Thornberry had just come from gardening. He likes flowers. He said, "You a May flower myself, born 92 years ago the first of this month."

"And," he added, "Nobody's ready to shoot me yet!"

A CONCERNED effort on the part of the 30 Oakland county school districts proceeded in the board's decision. Close to 100 city hearings last week on behalf of the schools.

With the county attempting to have its share of the 15 mills raised this year to 6.47 mills from last year's 5.62, the school districts were firm in their determination to increase their share of the 15-mill decrease in the school share.

Until 1956, the Oakland county school superintendents, Cliff Smart, superintendent of Walled Lake, and the allocation board that "Oakland county schools cannot continue to provide basic educational services as long as they are confronted with circumstances such as reductions in allocated rates, increased costs due to inflationary growth factors, static state aid appropriations, and a constant appeal to the electorate for increases in voted millage."

THE BUDGETS it came out of Saturday's committee session, will total approximately \$1,676,920. This is about 2.5% more than current operating expenses.

The present tax rate is \$19.40 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. City Manager L. R. Gare five weeks ago recommended budget appropriations which would have a mean, if adopted, a 20-cent tax increase.

However, commissioners have pared his suggestions by \$13,025, the amount necessary to keep the tax rate where it presently is.

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## Hill Elected Ford Motor VP

Merritt D. Hill, 905 East Glenary circle, Bloomfield Village, has been elected vice president of the Ford Motor Company, Ernest R. Beech, chairman of the board announced this week.

Hill is general manager of the company's tractor and implement division, 2500 E. Maple, Birmingham.

An executive in the farm equipment industry for the last 18 years, Hill joined Dearborn Motors Corporation in 1947. Until 1956, he was a vice president and director of the Emerald Isle, we talked about his life there and even about the Killarney pipe he drew out.

It was given him in 1953 by the vestry of Trinity church, New Philadelphia, Ohio, during the church's 50th anniversary celebration. Dr. Thornberry started that church.

## Petition for First US-10 Access Drive Below Lincoln

First "break" in opposition to access drives on US-10 below Lincoln avenue came this week.

Birmingham city officials welcomed it, and hastened to take steps to make the access drive a reality.

They will ask the state highway department to approve a drive on the west side of Woodward, from Lincoln to Ruffner.

Five of the six property owners petitioned for the drive, which already is working in that block constructing a merging lane for Woodward-Hunter traffic.

## Bonds Sold, Work to Begin On Evergreen

Sale of bonds Tuesday makes possible the beginning of construction next week on the Evergreen interceptor sewer, with a special groundbreaking ceremony set for Thursday, June 4.

The bonds on the big sewer, which will serve nine Birmingham area communities, were sold to Halsey, Stuart and company and the bonds for the Farmington interceptor at a slightly higher interest rate.

Oakland county Department of Public Works Director Harold K. Schone said the major portion of the construction contracts will be awarded immediately after the sale. Major contracts to Rocco Ferrara and company, of Livonia, Schone said it was not yet determined where construction would begin.

## Anticipated Non-Tax Revenues

Anticipated non-tax revenues will be about \$8,800 above Gare's estimates, according to a study by Another \$5,800 will be realized from part payment on several city lots to the city on 14 Mile road, east of Pierce.

Commissioners of the public library agreed to contribute \$100,000 (for operation) \$91,000, or \$4,000 (See TAX RATE, Page 2-A).

## Suburban Newlyweds' Future Is Analyzed

Lois and Don are a young couple who plan to be married this summer. They will settle down in a small apartment in Evanston, a suburb of Chicago. How well do their personal plans fit in with what university studies and sociological statistics say will happen to them during their married life?

They want four children. The statistical average is 3.4. They want eventually to build their own home. The sociologists say they will move four times, and their "divorce-involvement" more may be back to the city.

This month we take you through the next 20 years of their lives which lies ahead for them and for thousands of other Americans who will soon be young marrieds in Suburbia.

## 2 from Here Named Masonic Officers

Two Birmingham men have been elected to positions in the Mount Olivet chapter, Rose Croix, one of the city's coordinate bodies of the Scottish rite of Freemasonry.

W. Glen Harris, 1017 Pilgrim, was elected and named as Most Wise master of the chapter.

Ralph W. Moore, 340 Pilgrim, took office as orator.

They will hold office for the coming year.

## Subdivision Popularity Contests Do Not Decide Public Projects

In Hazel Park or in Ecorce, city officials have won the reputation of bluntness in dealing with their citizens. And vice versa.

Citizen-municipal relations are conducted directly, man-to-man. "Get off my foot, Buster! You're standing on it!" Birmingham men do it with considerably more finesse, much more diplomatically, like this:

"The city's charter places the responsibility for deciding public projects on the city commission of the city commission, which must act for the best interests of the entire city."

## Commissioners Were Patient

Commissioners were patient. Until their motives were questioned. There were audience implications that the street was being made in a superhighway deliberately. That the city would be rezoning more and more Lincoln frontage into unknown areas.

There were audience assumptions that property values would be depreciated seriously. That because of tremendously increased traffic volumes, in the future the boulevard section west of Lincoln would be removed.

## Special Added Attractions For Next Week

A special tabloid section with next week's "Eclectic" program of DDT and the Eccentric will present a complete report on the forthcoming second annual Birmingham Arts Festival, June 6-14, including pictures and the festival program schedule.

Also next week: views of two local authorities on the program of DDT and its effects trees, bird and wildlife.

## Bham City Offices Closed Tomorrow

Birmingham municipal offices will be closed all day tomorrow (Friday) because of Saturday's Memorial Day Holiday. City Manager L. R. Gare announced.

However, local banks and stores will remain open Friday, and close Saturday.

Gare said Friday residential rubbish collection schedule will be suspended. The next collection will be picked up on Tuesday.

## They Are Emphatic

THEY ARE EMPHATIC that having considered available facts, it is the city commission's responsibility ALONE to decide public improvements and other municipal matters according to its own best judgment.

The city charter does not make it the city commission's responsibility to elect in certain special instances.

It is now the duty of the city commission, sale of some public property, issued.

## These And Other Claims

THESE AND OTHER claims, charges and suspicions were voiced many of them at commission meetings, many at odd hours in phone calls at home by known and unknown callers.

There is some doubt whether most of the area is questioning the city's motives and objectivity—whether it is a relatively few, it probably is the few who have misjudged. (See CONTESTS, Page 5-A)

## Blowing of the Cornerstone for the Five-Parish Catholic Marian High School for Girls

Blessing of the cornerstone for the five-parish Catholic Marian high school for girls has been celebrated at 3 p.m. Sunday at the south side of the Lincoln-Labier site, following the ceremony which was blessed at 3 p.m. of the St. Regis mission church and elementary school at the northeast corner of the site.

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